

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**January 2013 – Week 2**

**Air Date: January 6 – January 12 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: TAMING THE BRAZOS**

JANUARY 1870 AND TEXANS TAME THE WILD BRAZOS.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JANUARY 7, 1870. WACO. CUTTING THROUGH THE HEART OF TEXAS, THE BRAZOS RIVER IS AN OBSTACLE TO A RAPIDLY GROWING STATE. FOR YEARS, ABOUT THE ONLY WAY TO CROSS IS A FERRY BOAT, AND THAT'S ONLY IN GOOD WEATHER.

SIX YEARS AGO, THE WACO BRIDGE COMPANY WAS FORMED TO BRIDGE THE RIVER AND PROMOTE THE TOWN. THEY HIRE JOHN ROEBLING OF NEW YORK TO BUILD A BRIDGE STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT WAGONS AND CATTLE DRIVES.

TODAY, THE 475-FOOT LONG SUSPENSION BRIDGE OPENS WITH GREAT FANFARE, TRANSFORMING WACO AND OPENING THE WEST. ROEBLING LATER USED THE SAME METHOD TO BUILD THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

THE WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE SPANNED THE MIGHTY BRAZOS 143 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., "BRAZOS RIVER," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rnb07>), accessed December 27, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Vivian Elizabeth Smyrl, "WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rtw01>), accessed December 27, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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